

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 IO-14

OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 CCO-00 SCCT-02 SAJ-01 AID-20

SR-02 ORM-03 /147 W

----- 085882

O R 291040Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2941

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3588

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJ: ISRAEL AND THE TERRORISTS

1. WE HAVE NOTED OVER PAST WEEK BOTH IN PRESS AND IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH ISRAELIS INCREASED PESSIMISM OVER SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS, PRIMARILY AS RESULT OF RHETORIC COMING OUT OF CAIRO. THIS IN TURN HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY TOUGH, STRIDENT PRONOUNCEMENTS BY VARIOUS GOI OFFICIALS AND ARTICLES IN PRESS.

2. LATEST EXAMPLES OF OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS WERE TWO PRESS INTERVIEWS HELD JUNE 27 BY IDF CHIEF OF STAFF GUR. SPEAKING IN TEL AVIV, GUR SAID THAT IDF SINCE OCTOBER WAR WAS AGAIN WELL EQUIPPED AND ORGANIZED AND AGAIN READY TO TAKE ON
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COMBINED EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN ARMIES "AND JORDAN AS WELL IF

NECESSARY." GUR SAID THAT IDF MUST BE READY FOR EVENTUALITY THAT ISRAEL WOULD HVE TO EXERCISE OPTION OF STRIKING FIRST BLOW IN NEXT WAR AND THAT ISRAEL HAD NEVER GIVEN UP THIS OPTION.

3. REGARDING ARAB OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON IS WAKE OF LAST WEEK'S ISRAELI AIR RAIDS, GUR SAID THIS WOULD INCREASE DANGER OF CONFRONTATION AND IT WAS UP TO LEBANON TO DECIDE WHAT " DEGREE OF CONFRONTATION" IT WANTED. EVEN IF MISSILE SYSTEMS WERE TO BE LOCATED IN LEBANON, ISRAEL WOULD DEAL WITH THEM. ON SUBJECT OF TERRORIST ATTACKS ORIGINATING FROM LEBANON, GUR SAID THAT GREATER EMPHASIS ON DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN ISRAEL DID NOT MEAN THAT CROSS-BORDER OFFENSIVE ACTIONS HAD BEEN ABANDONED, INCLUDING SEARCH-AND-DESTROY OPERATION, AMBUSHES, ROADBLOCKS AND RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS AS REQUIRED. DENYING THAT IDF HAD LOST ITS "IMAGINATIVE" APPROACH TO ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS, GUR SAID THAT IDF HAS NEW TYPES OF OPERATIONS UP ITS SLEEVE WHICH COULD BE USED AS REQUIRED.

4. PRESS ALSO HIGHLIGHTS REPORTS THAT CABINET INTENDS TO DISCUSS AGAIN WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS MEASURES TO INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF WAR AGAINST TERRORISM. MANY PRESS COMMENTATORS ARE INTERPRETING INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CROSS-BORDER TERRORIST OPERATIONS AS A WAY IN WHICH ARAB GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING EGYPT AND SYRIA, ARE CONTINUING WAR AGAINST ISRAEL, DESPITE CONCLUSION OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS. CALLS ARE BEING MADE FOR " IMAGINATIVE PLANS" TO FACE THIS PROBLEM AND THIS IS COUPLED, IN SOME CASES, BY PREDICTIONS THAT ANOTHER WAR MIGHT OCCUR IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE.

5. COMMENT. PRIMARY CAUSE OF CURRENT SITUATION LIES IN ISRAELI BEWILDERMENT ON HOW TO DEAL WITH TERRORISM PROBLEM, AND, IN TURN, PALESTINIAN ISSUE. IT MAY BE THAT STRIDENT TRUCULENCE OF STATEMENTS LIKE GUR'S ARE DESIGNED TO REASSURE ISRAELI PUBLIC WHILE GOI TRIES TO DECIDE HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. ONE HOPEFUL SIGN IS THAT TSOME COMMENTATORS ARE CALLING ON GOI TO LAUNCH POLITICAL FRONT AGAINST TERRORISTS BY OPENING TALKS WITH JORDAN RE WEST BANK AND FUTURE OF PALESTINIANS WITH HOPES OF ISOLATING TERRORISTS. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, SO FAR THIS IS ONLY IDEA BEING FLOATED BY SOME INFLUENTIAL JOURNALISTS WHO RECOGNIZE IMPOSSIBILITY OF "SOLVING" PALESTINIAN PROBLEM SOLELY THROUGH MILITARY ACTION IN LEBANON.
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6. AS CONCERNS THE WAR OF WORDS,BOTH EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS WILL HAVE TO TONE DOWN THEIR RHETORIC IN ORDER AVOID SERIOUS DAMAGE TO HOPES FOR FUTHER PROGRESS IN RELATIONS. ON APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS, WE ARE BRINGING THIS TO ATTENTION OF ISRAELIS HERE. IT MIGHT BE WELL TO CONSIDER DOING SAME WITH EGYPTIANS IN CAIRO AND WITH BOTH SIDES IN WASHINGTON.

7. WE HAVE JUST SEEN BEIRUT 7430. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, URGED
RESTRAINT ON ISRAELIS HERE CONCERNING REACTION TO NAHARIYA
(INCLUDING MY DISCUSSIONS WITH PM RABIN ON JUNE 26) AND WILL
CONTINUE TO DO SO. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE WISH TO RE-EMPHASIZE
IMPORTANCE OF MINIMIZING LEVEL OF STRIDENCY OF STATEMENTS COMING
OUT OF CAIRO IN CONTEXT OF SUPPORTING OUR EFFORTS TO KEEP ISRAELIS
FROM OVER-REACTING.
KEATING

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